

In the Claims:

1-118. (Previously canceled).

~~119.~~ (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
- (b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- (c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- (e) ~~the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~
- (f)(c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or~~
- (g)(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;~~

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

~~2~~ ~~120.~~ (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~119~~ encoding a polypeptide having at least 85% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
- (b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- (c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

(e) ~~the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~

(f)(c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or~~

(g)(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;~~

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

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~~121. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% nucleic acid sequence identity to:~~

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

(c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~

(d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

(e) ~~the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~

(f)(c) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or~~

(g)(d) ~~the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;~~

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

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~~122. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% nucleic acid sequence identity to:~~

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

- (e) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);
- (d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);
- (f)(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or
- (g)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

123. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);
- (d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);
- (f)(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or
- (g)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;
wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

124. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);

(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(e)(c) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);

(f)(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421); or

(g)(e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160.

125. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422).

126. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide.

127-128. Canceled.

129. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421).

130. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421).

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~~131.~~ (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~ comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160.

132-134. (Canceled)

~~125.~~ (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim ~~119~~.

~~13~~ ~~136.~~ (Previously presented) The vector of Claim ~~125~~, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

~~14~~ ~~137.~~ (Currently amended) A An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim ~~125~~.

~~15~~ ~~138.~~ (Previously presented) The host cell of Claim ~~127~~, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.